Where is the Man?

The Jacobins are Back — and They’re Demanding Receipts #milowinter #ageofscorpius #internationallaw #schengen #thefinalcountdown Désolé, Angleterre — you let yourself out. Author’…

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The Jacobins are Back — and They’re Demanding Receipts

#milowinter #ageofscorpius #internationallaw #schengen #thefinalcountdown

Désolé, Angleterre — you let yourself out.

Author’s Note: *After that last post, Saint-Just demanded an encore. And he wasn’t going to shut up*

about it until I gave the lectern back to him. As always, any resemblance to actual Dead Frenchmen is entirely intentional.

This is long, but remember, Saint-Just was the guy who spent 47 minutes without a break monologuing about why Louis XVI needed to die in front of the Convention Nationale. Here's a very abbreviated and dramatized version of that on YouTube.

The previous essays on the Milo Winter/Age of Scorpius brainworm:

LES THÉÂTRES DES JACOBINS

Presents:

Sur l'immigration, les permis de travail, les lois du travail et l'auto-incrimination

(On Immigration, Work Permits, Labor Laws, and Self-incrimination)

CITOYENS DU RÉPUBLIQUE DES LETTRES!

The **Comité de Surveillance des Frontières et des Déplacements Internationaux** is now called into order. The committee's purpose is address the feasibility of Citoyen Milo Winter's claimed movement — as a foreigner — in the bloc of twenty-nine nations known as the Schengen Area.

Before we begin, I will lay out the rules by which this committee will abide by.

- There will be no addressing or speculation on Citoyen Winter's mental state, his gender identity, or condition of his body. That is out of bounds. This committee deals in matérial fact, not the in the abstractions of personal identity.
- This committee will not attempt to divine Citoyen Winter's true location. **We are here to establish if he is in Schengen or if he is not**. We will compare international and national law against his own public statements. We will discuss his rights and limitations as a foreign guest to these shores — and if he has disregarded the law. More than that is out of bounds.
- Likewise, the committee discourages the People from deputizing themselves to pursue Citoyen Winter. Any attempt to do so is a grotesquery, a perversion of virtue, out of bounds, and beyond the control of this body polity.

The Comtié recognizes the argument that simply because something is the law does not mean the law is just. We concur, but we are not that court. The abstractions of moral justice lies outside of the bounds of our ability to arbitrate. If the People — or Citoyen Milo Winter himself — wish to challenge the machines of injustice by their own will, this Comité will not stand in their way.

Let us begin.

What is the Schengen Area?

While not the whole of Europe has had the sense to consign their kings to the dust we despise, the nations of the Schengen Area have abolished border controls for native, lawful citoyens for more than three decades. The European Union views the liberty of movement as a virtue, one this body polity approves of.

In this age, a man may travel from the dockside quays of Lisbon, the boulevards of Paris, to the opera houses of Vienna, and at last arrive on cobbles of Kraków without need of paper to prove his right.

But let no citoyen mistake liberty for license; what is free for the son of the Republic is not free to the visiting stranger.

Already, a voice from the gallery calls, *“But perhaps this man holds the birthright of two nations? One of Schengen, and the other of the United States, so thus he may partake of the rights and benefits of both?”*

I submit to you that Citoyen Winter holds no such privilege.

If Citoyen Winter held citizenship in the European Union, he would not have needed to solicit funds to help pay for his medically necessary service animal.

Unlike the Americans — who believe themselves enlightened — such financial hardship would have been unnecessary within the borders of the EU.

The sons and daughters of Schengen are Schengen by blood and lineage — *jus sanguinis* — not merely by desire or poetic declaration. An inherited privilege, the philosophy of which this committee is not within bounds to address.

Even if Citoyen Winter attempted to claim legitimacy by ancestry — as some nations like Spain, Italy, and Germany allow — he would require significant money and time. The former he could not have if he had to hold out his hand to goodhearted strangers to help pay for his service animal. The latter is too short a time from when he reached the age of majority until the present day, for claiming citizenship by blood is a process of both proof and of many years.

Now, moving on.

On the Law Concerning Departures and Arrival

We will begin with this notice nailed to the public square of Patreon on 16 September:

Regarding our slowed pace: There's lots of logistics behind the scenes, chief among them being that Winter is in the process of moving! Not the most ideal time for it, but the political & economic climate of the U.S. is... concerning, as I'm sure you know. The bright side is that a big reset and renewed focus await—she'll be moving to be in close proximity to Sauli & they'll be able to work on the second edition together in person. We're all excited to see what new vigor this brings.

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And perhaps "public square" is not entirely accurate as, like a pamphleteer, a few coins must be paid to read the entire notice, but enough may be seen without.

This notice was written by Citoyenne Elrose, who bears the title of project manager and illustrator for Winter's *World of Gardian* oeuvre. On 16 September, Citoyen Winter had concluded he needed to leave the land of his birth for the chill of Finland.

This was further confirmed on 23 September by Citoyenne Elrose in another notice to the public square:

9/23 Update - Holding Pattern
September 23
Art & Post by Elrose, Illustrator & Project Manager
Hey folks, as I mentioned last week, there's nothing to share on the writing front this week. Winter is in the process of moving, flying out tomorrow. Hope to have more to talk about next week!

> Hey folks, as I mentioned last week, there's nothing to share on the writing front this week. Winter is in the process of moving, flying out tomorrow. Hope to have more to talk about next week!

Men and women may *fly*, instead of journeying for many months aboard a storm-tossed ship. What wonders this age has, citoyens of the Republic! Yet many fail to recognize the wonders, much less heed its darker corners. For wonders this age has, but the binding of law is eternal.

The Comité pour la Sécurité Canine has already discussed the matter of Citoyen Winter's service animal, Citoyenne Smidge, and her hypotheticals. The **Comité de Surveillance des Frontières et des Déplacements Internationaux** is, as they say, a "fact finding" commission on whether or not Citoyen Winter may plausibly be in Schengen by his own admission and the admission of others in his employ.

Yes, "employ." We will return to that word for the benefit of the People at a later point.

Also, the Comité is unsure if Citoyen Winter is currently residing in Norway or Finland. By his own words in his essay ***High Disturbance*** he was "at last in Norway." For

the ease and clarity of the Comité we will continue to assume Finland was his port of entry and that he is not accompanied by his faithful dog, Citoyenne Smidge.

As soon as we mentioned on Patreon that I was relocating to Finland, someone tracked down my Facebook Marketplace listing, with my legal name, and shared my apartment online. Beyond the veil of many internet conspiracies concerning my disappearance, I simply crashed out and decided I needed to set my life on fire. I moved out of my apartment in Colorado, dropped my stuff in Kansas, and flew to Helsinki. Sauli welcomed me to Finland with the goal of kicking ass for Gardian. As we rework *The Age of Scorpius*, we are working closely together to weave a story unified with prose and illustration. We'll have more to announce soon.

> I simply crashed out and decided I needed to set my life on fire. I moved out of my apartment in Colorado, dropped my stuff in Kansas, and flew to Helsinki. Sauli welcomed me to Finland with the goal of kicking ass for Gardian.

Returning to Citoyen Winter's essay, he claims he needed to "set his life on fire" and moved to Finland with two weeks notice. While I personally, Citoyen Saint-Just, will admire his bravery to commit to such an action, I must also ask if it is possible.

Citoyen Winter would have needed to enter Schengen as a tourist.

He cannot claim to be self-employed to the Finnish border men, for he would have needed to file months in advance and submit a business plan. If I may ask — rhetorically — what business plan is that? One must report the number of employees, provide tax registration information, and provide evidence the business is financially solvent, among other requirements.

The Comité and the People may infer from Citoyen Winter's own public statements that his financial solvency is … *debatable*. No doubt the Finnish border men would also find it so. Thus, if Citoyen Winter has entered Schengen on impulse, it can only be on a tourist permit.

There is no Finnish visa for "Oh, this man is my friend, I am sponsoring him to remain in this country." Citoyen Sauli cannot claim Citoyen Winter as a sponsor.

What rights and restrictions does a foreign-born man abroad in Schengen retain as a tourist?

Firstly, such a visitor — a guest — is restricted to staying only ninety days — not a day more. And then he must leave and not return for one hundred and eighty days. Approximately six months. Only once one hundred and eighty days have passed, may he return to Schengen. A guest should not overstay his welcome.

Let us reiterate for this section that Citoyenne Elrose has helpfully given us the date of Citoyen Winter's departure from the United States: 24 September 2025.

Meaning, Citoyen Winter may only stay — legally — in Schengen until 23 December 2025.

Overstaying means penalties and deportation for Citoyen Winter. A possible ban for up to five years from entry into any nation or port of Schengen. It means legal peril for any citoyen of Schengen harboring him after the ninety days has passed.

If he flouts the law and is caught, his name enters the Schengen Information System (SIS II). Not only will he be barred from re-entering Schengen but it will cause ripples across every border in the world. Citoyen Winter may find traveling outside of America again difficult, if not impossible.

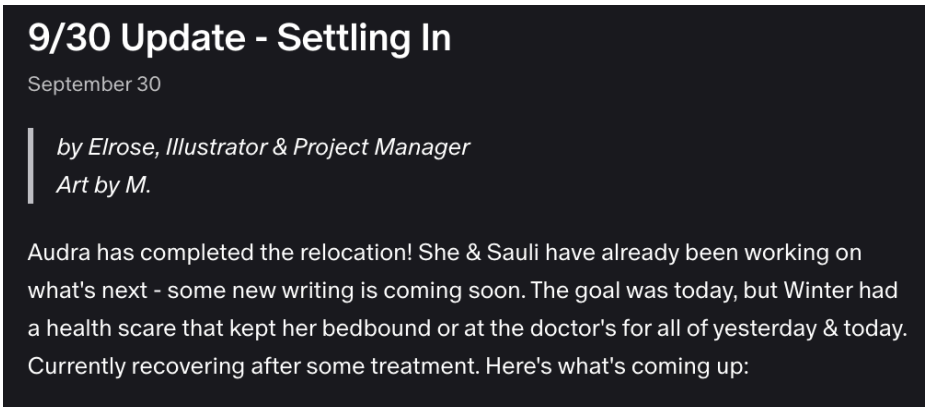
Do not mistake my words for cruelty, but merely banal fact: Schengen law cares not for tears nor gossamer tales spun from fire and rebirth.

On the Law, the Man, and the Tyranny of Coin

Citoyen Winter — again through his own public statements and the statements of Citoyenne Elrose — intends to complete the revised edition of his book while in the jurisdiction of Schengen. He is still taking coin for direct sales of his first edition of his book and orders for the next. He is still soliciting patronage from well-wishers.

That is, perhaps, understandable. One needs coin to survive, although some of us wish it naught. Coin is a chain. And, yet, Schengen law dictates a man journeying under the banner of a tourist may not line his pockets for survival nor profit.

Let us begin with this notice called “Settling In” in the public square of Patreon by Citoyenne Elrose, written for paying members, and dated 30 September. Between arrival on 24 September and this notice, Citoyen Winter suffered a maladay that required medical intervention. We will return to the matter of medicine later:


9/30 Update - Settling In
September 30
by Elrose, Illustrator & Project Manager
Art by M.
Audra has completed the relocation! She & Sauli have already been working on what's next - some new writing is coming soon. The goal was today, but Winter had a health scare that kept her bedbound or at the doctor's for all of yesterday & today. Currently recovering after some treatment. Here's what's coming up:

> Audra has completed the relocation! She & Sauli have already been working on what’s next – some new writing is coming soon. The goal was today, but Winter had a health scare that kept her bedbound or at the doctor’s for all of yesterday & today. Currently recovering after some treatment.

Citoyenne Elrose writes again on 7 October that Citoyens Winter and Sauli are “hard at work” at improving the next edition of the book, The Age of Scorpius.

10/7 Update - Words from Winter

October 7

> *by Elrose, Illustrator & Project Manager*
> *Art by Bam*

Hey everyone! Winter & Sauli have been making good progress, but none of the projects we mentioned last week (Full Outline, Creative Non-Fiction, Animatic) are ready for release yet.

Two of those projects are directly addressing major problems in the 1st edition of *The Age of Scorpius*. Another major problem - perhaps *the* most critical problem - is that the book definitely got rushed out under unexpected pressure, with several key steps not done properly (copy edit, beta readers) or not done at all (arc readers).

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The 9 November update contained this piece of information indicating work produced for pay:

- **Weekly on Fridays**, there will be a post for Moon ($5) patrons, alternating between Worldbuilding / Lore drops & Exclusive Art / Process Dives. We'll take holiday weeks off for these, but they'll start this week!

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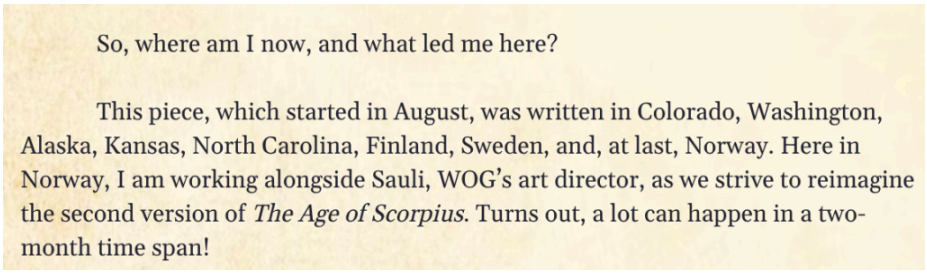
> take holiday weeks off for these, but they'll start this week!

And then, finally, in his essay, *High Disturbance*, Citoyen Winter writes in his own hand:



So, where am I now, and what led me here?

This piece, which started in August, was written in Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Kansas, North Carolina, Finland, Sweden, and, at last, Norway. Here in Norway, I am working alongside Sauli, WOG's art director, as we strive to reimagine the second version of *The Age of Scorpius*. Turns out, a lot can happen in a two-month time span!

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To work in the Schengen Area — regardless if it is Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, or Finland — one must apply for a work permit. By Citoyen Winter's own narrative, his decision to decamp to Finland was made impulsively, with only two week's notice, a window of time that is inadequate for the clerks of the European Union to process a work application.

Nor can he apply for art residency in Finland. He does not meet the requirements: no embassy interview, no evidence of a successful body of work, no time to procure the fees and forms in two weeks.

Under tourist conditions, these public admissions are self incriminating — **work performed while not**

authorized to work.

What penalties might this incur?

- Loss of legal stay status
- Work considered unauthorized economic activity
- Possible immediate order to leave the country
- Fines (hundreds to several thousand euros — the amount determined at the discretion of the nation where the infraction occurred)

This also has immigration consequences:

- Deportation with escort if non-compliant
- Schengen-wide ban — typically 1–5 years from all 29 Schengen countries, not just one

Financial consequences:

- Liability for unpaid tax on earnings generated inside Schengen
- Fines for failure to declare income due to a lack of residency status
- Possible retroactive taxation on Patreon and book sales that occurred while in Schengen

Citoyen Sauli, too, faces what this age euphemistically calls, “collateral damage.”

If Finnish authorities determine Citoyen Sauli is employed by or is employing Citoyen Winter — who does not have a business or work permit that the Comité or the People are aware of — he may face **fines of no less than €1,000 and up to €30,000**. He may be forced to pay for Citoyen Winter’s removal from Schengen, and register as a violator in Finland’s criminal databases.

If Citoyen Winter is indeed in Schengen, then the recklessness of his actions place Citoyen Sauli into jeopardy as well.

Girondins on their way to the guillotine — they misjudged the system, assumed leniency, and believed process would bend to personal narrative. Don't be a Girondin.

On the Law as Written versus the Law as Practiced

If I may also call the attention of both the Comité and the People … foreigners on tourist visas *do* work in the European Union quite often, and *do* pocket coin, despite the law as written. The difference between these violators and Citoyen Winter is that *they do not advertise what they are doing to a global audience*. Or, at least, one should hope they do not.

A foreign tourist may sit quietly beside the Seine, enjoying his coffee and pâtisseres viennoises, while

managing profits on his shop registered beneath another nation's flag. So long as he does not call attention to his flouting of the law, the law remains blind.

Citoyen Winter has provided enough documented evidence — repeated in the voices of others discussing him — *to incriminate himself*. In the eyes of Schengen law, this is as good as a confession.

On the Law and Seeking Solutions

Ah, a questioner from the gallery? *"Could not Citoyen Winter hold a residency permit in Finland? Is that not a possibility?"*

It is not. Citoyen Winter may apply to be a resident before his departure to that nation, but an application may take more than five years. Marry a Finn? A man may still not be granted residency. Claim to be a student? Where is your paperwork to study abroad?

Open an account at a Finnish bank? Present your residency papers first.

Citoyen Winter could have declared his intent to apply for residency when he arrived in Helsinki but that is contingent on *not* working while one is waiting for the petition to be answered. Accept coin for labor performed on Finnish soil, solicit patrons over the electronic ether? All would disqualify him instantly.

Another interlocuter from the gallery calls. *“What if Citoyen Ternaux decides to leave his desert solitude in America and venture to the beaches of Mexico while still earning profits on his book, which is for sale in marketplace of Bezos of the Amazon? What if Citoyen Ternaux sojourns to Spain or Corsica or Lombardy to research for his next book whilst turning profit? Should he not also be in violation as much as Citoyen Winter?”*

Firstly, let me state that the position of the Comité on Bezos of the Amazon is that he is a tyrant of the small press, to whom many who practice the art of the written word must bow to, and who makes his peasants beg for the right to urinate while toiling in his warehouses. He is a modern Pharaoh who presides over a royal court built of pasteboard and ruined spines.

Secondly, the contradiction the gallery raises is a fair one, but Citoyen Ternaux would *not* be in violation of Schengen law if he chooses to come while collecting money on his book.

Schengen differentiates between coin earned through no direct action of one's own, and coin earned through labor while on Schengen soil. "Passive income" is the wording commonly used, I believe.

Citoyen Ternaux's book bears an American printer's mark, his banking tied to American banks. He may walk through old battlefields and cemeteries in peace and then return. Contrast this with Citoyen Winter, who openly states he is revising his work on Schengen soil, and that he is reviving the operations of his press within its borders without any logical possibility of permit.

Citoyen Winter's own words lay claim that he sold or gave away his furniture and presumably other items not easily carried. One may infer that those are not the actions of a man who plans to return from whence he came.

A foreign man on a tourist visa is required to declare upon his arrival to Schengen his plan to return home or to travel on outside of Schengen. He must present proof of his intent to depart. One must wonder what Citoyen Winter's declaration was. But that is out of bounds for the Comité to speculate on, but the People remain free to imagine as they wish.

And one more caller from the gallery? *"Is the path of the refugee or asylum seeker one that Citoyen Winter may take?*"

No, although, given his own writings on *High Disturbance*, one may infer he will attempt to try.

Finland has one of the strictest quotas on refugees and asylum petitioners in Europe, and the cases heard are ones where imminent danger or death awaits if the petitioner is returned. If Citoyen Winter attempts this he will step ahead of those whose house burned under artillery fire, someone fleeing the blood-soaked Sudan, someone whose family vanished into a detention camp.

What makes Citoyen Winter's case more fraught than others that he should be allowed to claim asylum, I ask the body polity? If he wishes asylum, he would have needed to declare it upon arrival — and not return to his work like a man unconcerned. He will need to prove his need.

Can he?

On the Law and the Machines That Do Not Forget

Unlike the fantastical tales spun by Citoyen Winter and others of that literary convention, there is no single villain to defeat and win the day. No king to stretch his neck beneath a falling blade. Instead the villain wears no face at all — and lives suspended in the whisper of

electrons and the hum of data servers. This is the tyranny of a digital archive.

Many in the Republic walk unaware of the invisible eye that shadows them, the many layers that exist. There was a time when a man could travel the next valley over, to the next country, take a ship, and upon arrival claim a new name and past. That time is no more. Now, every man leaves a ghost of himself wherever he goes.

Citoyen Winter, when he purchased his ticket to travel from America to Europe would have instantly been entered into the US customs rolls and their “homeland security” department — his name, and the time and number of his departure. His transport would then place his name into *their* rolls — separate ones — which are stored for many years. The information is sent ahead to his destination. Logged. Archived.

And when arriving into Finland, he would have presented his passport, its serial number and and image of which is now stored in Schengen’s entry and exit logs. The Finnish customs men would have asked where he intended to reside during his stay, and the address added to a digital ledger. Once more logged and archived.

And the machine would begin counting the days until Citoyen Winter’s permit to stay runs out. The machine is never wrong.

And, as Citoyenne Elrose so helpfully provided, Citoyen Winter suffered sickness or a malady while in Finland, requiring the intervention of a Finnish doctor.

The encounter with the doctor would be logged and archived in Finland's national Kanta medical database.

Each patron who gives coin to Citoyen Winter for laboring while he is abroad also leaves a mark in the ether — another strike.

And when the ninetieth day — 23 December 2025 — arrives and passes and Citoyen Winter is no longer a lawful tourist? The machine will remember and, like a faithful bloodhound, will alert its masters.

And should the marked day come and pass, and Citoyen Winter appears in the public square once more and unbothered? Then Citoyen Winter was *never* in Schengen — and the People may levy judgment as they will.

On the Law and the Conclusion

Some in the Republic have called for mercy, that Citoyen Winter is young, that it is the nature of the young to make mistakes. And the abstractions of his

identity — in gender and sexual partners — make him a persecuted target.

The law — and the machine — cares not if Citoyen Winter is young, nor his gender or whom he prefers to bed. If he is in arrears, then he will face correction.

The Comité cannot advise Citoyen Winter on his next steps.

The Comité cannot guide him.

We are here to assert reality.

As of right now, Citoyen Winter rides in a tumbrel crafted of his own words, digital ink, and the inevitability of law. If he chooses wisely, he may yet avoid mounting the scaffold.

The clock is winding down, and the Republic is watching.

— Louis-Antoine de Saint-Just, 18 Frimaire, An CCXXXIV

Next: An Open Letter to Milo Winter

Author's Footnote: *FWIW, I have not actually read Winter's book, Age of Scorpius, and my only knowledge has been absorbed via osmosis from all the discourse around it. I was curious, however.*

Prior to this essay, I had considered buying the first version of the ebook off of Winter's website, a direct sale. Indie authors should support indie authors. Heck,

I have a TBR of some of my favorite indie series on my e-reader I still haven't gotten around to finishing, but I like and respect the author. But as I researched more deeply into Schengen law, I realized if I did, I could no longer claim a position of neutrality. I'd be complicit in whatever repercussions Winter may face.

If you're considering buying his book, I ask you to please reconsider. Do not contribute to his Patreon. Don't watch any of his monetized videos that might still be around. It's not a boycott, but ethics. He's in enough hot water as it is — if he is indeed overseas and working illegally. In short, please do not put yourself in a position of moral compromise where you contribute to the 1099-K non-Euclidian hellscape that's coming for him.

And if you do? Well, that's on you. 🤷

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